academically autonomous and prescribes its own courses of study. However, the UGC has issued guidelines for restructuring of courses at the first degree level which inter-alia provide for foundation courses. The foundation courses, amongst others cover study of the history of freedom movement in India, including national integration, social and cultural history of India etc.

Nutrition and Child Development

603. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of the Nutrition Foundation of India has suggested to create a central nodal agency under the charge of the Prime Minister for nutrition and child development; and

(b) if so, what is the response of Government to this suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI): (a) Yes Sir. The President of the Nutrition Foundation of India has suggested the creation of a central nodal agency under the charge of the Prime Minister for Nutrition and Child Development in his 9th John Barnabas Memorial Lecture entitled "Child Care in India: Emerging Challenges" organised by the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development in Delhi on 29.3.93.

(b) A National Children's Board already exists with Prime Minister as President and is a National Forum for planning, reviewing and coordinating various services for meeting the needs of the children.

Identification of Sports talents in schools

604. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made to locate and identify talent in schools for training for various Olympic Sports events; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Government, through the Schemes of Sports Authority of India e.g. National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC), Sports Project Development Area Scheme (SPDA) and Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC), scout and nurture talent available in schools sector in the following Olympics disciplines:—

Archery, Athletics Badminton, Boxing, Cycling, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Swimming, Table Tennis and Wrestling.

(b) The details are given below:—

National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC): This scheme is meant to scout and nurture school children in the age group of 8 to 12 years. The selected children are admitted to Adopted Schools and given free board, lodging education, training and sports kit and also provided medical care and insurance cover. 1014 children are presently under training in 54 adopted schools.

Sports Project Development Area Scheme (SPDA)

This scheme covers schools children of the age group of 8 to 14 years. The